

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3227
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
FOREST COVER
BAHADUR SINGH KOLI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Andhra Pradesh has become the first State to involve industries like Indian Tobacco Company to increase the Forest Cover;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to involve industries in other States also to increase the Forest Cover?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) and (b) It has come to the notice of Central Government that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had issued a Government Order No. 112 dated 22.09.2000 where it has been agreed in principle for involvement of the industries in supporting the Vana Samrakshana Samities (VSS) in re-generating the degraded forest areas subject to fulfilment of certain conditions.

The basic objective of the National Forest Policy, 1988 is to conserve the bio-diversity of the country and to meet the requirement of fuel-wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations. It is also one of the objectives of the National Forest Policy that industry should fulfil their requirement of raw-material through raising plantation on non-forest wastelands. The Government of Andhra Pradesh order issued on 22.09.2000 for involvement of industries in raising plantation on forest land is under examination, in the light of National Forest Policy, 1998 and other Central Acts, details of tripartite agreement to be signed between VSS, industries and State Government, areas earmarked for afforestation, modality for buy back arrangement, etc.

(c) Assignment of any forest land or any portion thereof by way of lease or otherwise to industries not managed or controlled by Government requires prior approval of Central Government in accordance with Section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. At present, there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry.